

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) An EGR cooler comprising:

with a plurality of tubes, said tubes having longitudinal axes extending substantially horizontally; and

a shell surrounding said tubes, wherein a first axial end of said shell has an inlet connected to a source of exhaust gas and a second axial end of said shell has an outlet, whereby the exhaust gas may flow from said source through said tubes in said shell and be exhausted from said shell via said outlet, and wherein said tubes are arranged such that coolant water can pass between said tubes for heat exchange of said exhaust gas in said tubes with said coolant water;

~~coolant water being fed into and discharged from the shell, exhaust gas being passed through said tubes for heat exchange of said exhaust gas with said coolant water, the EGR cooler comprising~~

an annular coolant-water supply chamber fitted over said shell near [[an]] the first axial end of the shell[[,]]; and

a coolant-water inlet pipe connected to a source of cooling water and further connected at said first axial end to a periphery of the supply chamber[[,]]; and
communicating holes formed at a circumferentially spaced plurality of peripheral positions on a portion of the first axial end of the shell surrounded by said supply chamber, wherein such that said holes have gradually reduced diameters as said holes are farther peripherally spaced apart from the connection between the chamber and the inlet pipe, so as to substantially evenly introduce the coolant water into the shell via the holes.

Claim 2. (Currently Amended) The EGR cooler according to claim 1, wherein the portion of the shell surrounded by the supply chamber and at a circumferential location has-a required extent of peripheral zone facing the inlet pipe has and having no communicating holes.

Claim 3. (New) The EGR cooler according to claim 1, further comprising:
an annular coolant-water discharge chamber fitted over said shell near the second axial end of the shell;
a coolant-water outlet pipe connected at said second axial end to a periphery of the discharge chamber; and
second communicating holes formed at a circumferentially spaced plurality of peripheral positions on a portion of the second axial end of the shell surrounded by said discharge chamber.

Claim 4. (New) The EGR cooler according to claim 2, further comprising:
an annular coolant-water discharge chamber fitted over said shell near the second axial end of the shell;
a coolant-water outlet pipe connected at said second axial end to a periphery of the discharge chamber; and
second communicating holes formed at a circumferentially spaced plurality of peripheral positions on a portion of the second axial end of the shell surrounded by said discharge chamber.